

REFERENCE TITLE: wildfires; volunteer firefighters

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2006

# HB 2471

Introduced by  
Representatives Smith, Rosati

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 41-2148, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO WILDLAND FIRE VOLUNTEERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2       Section 1. Section 41-2148, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4                  41-2148. State wildland-urban fire safety committee: definition

5       A. The state wildland-urban fire safety committee is established  
6 consisting of twelve members appointed for three year terms as follows:

7                  1. Four members who are appointed by the governor as follows:

8                      (a) A fire chief or fire marshal of a paid municipal fire department  
9 of a city with a population of fifty thousand persons or more.

10                     (b) The state forester or the state forester's designee.

11                     (c) A member of the Arizona fire chiefs' association.

12                     (d) A city or town planning and zoning official from a municipality  
13 with a high risk wildland-urban interface area with a population of fifty  
14 thousand persons or more.

15                  2. Four members who are appointed by the president of the senate as  
16 follows:

17                      (a) A resident of, and property owner in, a city, town or county with  
18 a high risk wildland-urban interface area.

19                      (b) A person who owns property and serves as a firefighter for a fire  
20 district in an area at high risk from wildland fire.

21                      (c) A watershed management expert.

22                      (d) A member in a liaison capacity with this state's congressional  
23 delegation. This member may be appointed from nominees solicited by the  
24 president of the senate from one or more members of Congress.

25                  3. Four members who are appointed by the speaker of the house of  
26 representatives as follows:

27                      (a) A wildland fire science expert from region 3 of the United States  
28 forest service who resides in this state.

29                      (b) A person who holds a professional position in forest ecology and  
30 who is knowledgeable about the effects of forest thinning on the biological  
31 diversity of forests.

32                      (c) A property owner from a county with a population of less than five  
33 hundred thousand persons who has knowledge and expertise in property  
34 development in wildland areas.

35                      (d) A registered architect with expertise in designing residential  
36 dwellings.

37                  B. The committee shall annually select a chairperson from its  
38 membership. The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson or on  
39 the request of at least four members of the committee. Members of the  
40 committee are not eligible to receive compensation for their service on the  
41 committee but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to title  
42 38, chapter 4, article 2.

43                  C. The committee shall develop recommendations for minimum standards  
44 for:

45                      1. Safeguarding life and property from wildland fire and fire hazards.

1       2. Preventing wildland fires and alleviation of fire hazards.  
2       3. Storage, sale, distribution and use of dangerous chemicals,  
3 combustibles, flammable liquids, explosives and radioactive materials in  
4 wildland-urban interface areas.

5       4. Fire evacuation routes and community alert systems.  
6       5. The creation of defensible spaces in and around wildland-urban  
7 interface areas as authorized by existing county and municipal laws and  
8 ordinances.

9       6. The application of adaptive management practices to use in  
10 monitoring data from treatment programs to assess the effectiveness of those  
11 programs in meeting forest health objectives.

12      7. Other matters relating to wildland-urban fire prevention and  
13 control that the committee considers to be necessary.

14      D. THE COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY  
15 FIRE OFFICIALS, FIRE DISTRICTS AND THE STATE FORESTER REGARDING THE  
16 APPROPRIATE USE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS IN WILDLAND FIRE EMERGENCIES,  
17 INCLUDING FITNESS, SAFETY, TACTICAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING, THE USE OF  
18 PRIVATE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT, COORDINATION WITH PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTING  
19 TEAMS AND SUPERVISION, LEGAL, LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION ISSUES.

20      D. E. The committee shall issue an annual report with recommendations  
21 to the governor and the legislature by December 31 of each year. The  
22 committee shall provide a copy of the report to the secretary of state and  
the director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records.

23      E. F. For the purposes of this section, "wildland-urban interface"  
24 means a geographical area where residential or commercial structures meet or  
25 intermingle with federal, state, tribal or other public land that is  
26 undeveloped, other than transportation or utility infrastructure.